

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of

ABE *ET AL.*

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Application Serial No.: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: December 31, 2003 (herewith)

Title: SYNTHESIZED SILICA GLASS OPTICAL MEMBER AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING
THE SAME

December 31, 2003

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.96, 1.97, and 1.98, the applicants request consideration of the documents listed on the attached Forms PTO-1449. Copies of these documents were submitted in U.S. Pat. Appl. Ser. No. 09/797,857. The present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §§120 and 121 to Ser. No. 09/797,857. According to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d), copies of these documents are not enclosed.

The applicants do not waive any rights to appropriate action to establish patentability over the listed documents should they be applied as references against the claims of the present application. This statement should not be construed as a representation that more material information does not exist or that an exhaustive search of the relevant art has been made.

This Information Disclosure Statement is intended to be fully compliant with 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.96, and 1.97. However, should the examiner find any part of its required content to have been omitted, the applicants earnestly solicit prompt notice to that effect, along with additional time under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(f) to enable the applicants to comply fully.

The applicants respectfully request consideration of the cited documents and making the same of record in the prosecution of the above-identified application.

Inventor(s): ABE *et al.*
Application No.: **Divisional of Serial No. 09/797,857**
Attorney Docket No.: **007874-0307449**

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed prior to the receipt of the first official action on the merits. Therefore, the applicants believe that no fee is due. However, the enclosed fee transmittal grants the United States Patent and Trademark Office permission to charge any fees required for the consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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007874-0307449

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BY APPLICANT**Applicant: ABE *et al.*

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Page

1

of

1

Examiner: Unassigned

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initials*		Document Number	Date MM/YYYY	Name (Family Name of First Inventor)	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date (if appropriate)
	AR	5,713,979	02/1998	Nicholson			
	BR						
	CR						
	DR						
	ER						
	FR						
	GR						
	HR						
	IR						
	JR						
	KR						
	LR						
	MR						
	NR						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document Number	Date MM/YYYY	Country	Inventor Name		English Abstract		Translation Readily Available	
							Enclosed	No	Enclosed	No
	OR	8-67530	03/1996	Japan				X		
	PR	8-75901	03/1996	Japan				X		
	QR	10-67521	03/1998	Japan				X		
	RR	11-240728	03/1999	Japan				X		
	SR	EP 0 691 312	01/1998	Europe						
	TR									
	UR									
	VR									
	WR									
	XR									

OTHER (Including in this order Author, Title, Periodical Name, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	YR				
	ZR				
	AAR				

Examiner

Date Considered:

*EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609. Please draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Please include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.